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ER 0927X 4/1.88

SUBJECT:

~~EYES ONLY~~

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

88-0927X/1

10 March 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Nancy J. Risque  
Assistant to the President and  
Cabinet Secretary

SUBJECT: Presidential Medal of Freedom

Your memorandum came to me inasmuch as Bill Webster is out of the country for the next week or so. I regard that as a fortunate coincidence because it gives me the opportunity to suggest Bill Webster himself for the Medal of Freedom. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor than Bill. As jurist, Director of the FBI for nine years and now Director of Central Intelligence, Bill Webster has put aside his private life and the opportunity for personal gain to serve this country. I think he very much was looking forward to returning to private life and a law practice a year ago when the President asked him to step into the breach and succeed Bill Casey as Director of Central Intelligence. Only a man with Bill Webster's patriotism and dedication to public service would have remained in government having already given such noteworthy service.

No one can quarrel with Bill's "especially meritorious contribution" to "the security or national interest of the United States". It may be said of Bill Webster that he took the reins of the FBI and of CIA at a time when each was confronted with enormous criticism and challenges to its professionalism and integrity. By dint of his own reputation and efforts, Judge Webster restored effectiveness and public esteem to these organizations so vital to America's national security and well-being. Taking over each agency during dark days of controversy and difficulty, he successfully led them through trying times -- thus more than justifying the

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confidence reposed in him by successive Presidents of the United States.

I can think of no one whose sacrifice and achievements more warrant recognition with the Presidential Medal of Freedom than William H. Webster.



Robert M. Gates

STAT

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Executive Registry

88-0927X

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL WEBSTER

FROM: NANCY RISQUE 

SUBJECT: Presidential Medal of Freedom

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given in the United States, is awarded to persons who have made especially meritorious contributions to "(1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." The award was established in 1963, replacing the Medal of Freedom initiated by President Truman in 1945 to reward meritorious, war-connected acts or services.

Do you have any suggestions for this award -- if possible, by March 14?

Thank you.

CONTROL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CROSS REF: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIOR PAPERS ON THIS SUBJECT: NO YES

PRIOR CORRES SENT TO: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER COMMENTS: *Copy to DDCI*

*09 MAR 1988 1840 hrs (hand-carried  
by D/ES) DDCI has action*  
EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE NO:

*L-255-1R*  
CROSS REF: *P-106-1R*

Executive Registry

88-0927X

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL WEBSTER

FROM:

NANCY RISQUE *Nancy*

SUBJECT:

Presidential Medal of Freedom

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Thank you.

